

ESSB 6427 – An act relating to schedules for the review of comprehensive plans and development regulations for certain cities and counties; reenacting and amending RCW 36.70A.130; and creating a new section. This legislation provides a three-year extension of the current GMA update deadline to smaller, slower-growing cities and counties.

“Growth Management Act Timelines” Q&A

Q: What is the intent of this bill?

A: Rates of growth across the state are not the same. One size does not fit all when it comes to how often local plans should be updated. Smaller, slower-growing cities and counties don’t need to incur the cost of a comprehensive plan update as often as larger communities that are growing.

Q: What is the definition of small and slow-growing?

A: There are two sets of criteria. One applies to cities. The second applies to counties. The law defines small and slow-growing counties as those with a population of less than 50,000 and a growth rate of 17 percent or less over the ten-year period prior to their update deadline. Small and slow-growing cities are those with a population of 5,000 or less and a growth rate of 17 percent or less over the ten-year period prior to their update deadline. Cities with population growth of 100 people or less over the ten-year period prior to their update deadline also qualify.

Q: What is the source of the population data?

A: The sources for the data are the Office of Financial Management Intercensal Population estimates for the state, counties, cities, and towns for 1968 to 2000 and Postcensal Population Estimates for 2000 through 2005. For illustrative purposes, 1995 to 2005 population data is used to calculate eligibility.

Q: Where do I get the data?

A: Intercensal data and population trend data are posted on the Office of Financial Management Web site:

www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/cociseries/cocity1960_2005.xls

www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/gmatracking082505.pdf

Q: On what date is this determination based?

A: Eligibility for the extension is based on the population and growth rate as of the date of your statutory due date. For example, if your jurisdiction has a December 1, 2007, deadline to complete the update process, then it would have to qualify on December 1, 2007.

Q: If my jurisdiction qualifies as small and slow growing, do we retain that designation into the future?

A: Not necessarily. Growth is dynamic. Some cities and counties may be close to the population and growth rate thresholds. If so, they may not qualify for the time extension. Cities must meet the requirement as of the eligibility date. Check the OFM Web sites regularly to track population data.

Q: Does the extension apply to all aspects of a GMA update?

A: Yes, the extension applies to the update to comprehensive plans, development regulations, and critical areas ordinances.

Q: Does the time extension qualify my jurisdiction for a larger update grant?

A: No, the update grant amount stays the same. The time extension may effect the closing date of your grant.

Q: If my jurisdiction qualifies for the time extension, are we required to use it?

A: No, using the time extension is a local choice. We recommend that you consult with your neighboring jurisdictions, especially if you will be part of a county-wide process to update items that must be regionally coordinated.

Q: How do I determine if my jurisdiction should use the time extension?

A: Consider how extensive your update may be. Have there been significant changes to local conditions? How much time has passed since the last major update to the comprehensive plan and development regulations? Does your critical areas ordinance incorporate best available science? When does your jurisdiction begin updating its Shoreline Master Program?

Q: My jurisdiction doesn't qualify as small or slow growing. Is there anything in ESSB 6427 that could be useful to us?

A: There is new language in Section 2(a) related to planned actions. The subsection states that amendments to comprehensive plans necessary to enact a planned action may occur more frequently than annually as long as they are consistent with the public participation program established by the city or county.

Q: Does this bill cancel out the one-year extension to the CAO update?

A: 2005-2007 update jurisdictions not eligible under ESSB 6427 still qualify for this one-year extension for the CAO update. They also retain the current schedule of updates to comprehensive plans and development regulations.

Q: Do 2004 update jurisdictions qualify for the three-year time extension?

A: No, they do not.

Q: Does utilizing the three-year time extension affect eligibility for state loans and grants?

A: Section 2(7) clarifies that cities and counties showing substantial progress on their updates are eligible to receive grants, loans, pledges, or financial guarantees from state sources such as the Public Works Board and the State Revolving Fund.

Q: Help me out; I am a visual person. Do you have a picture or chart that illustrates which jurisdictions would qualify for the time extension?

A: Yes we provide both! Check the next page.

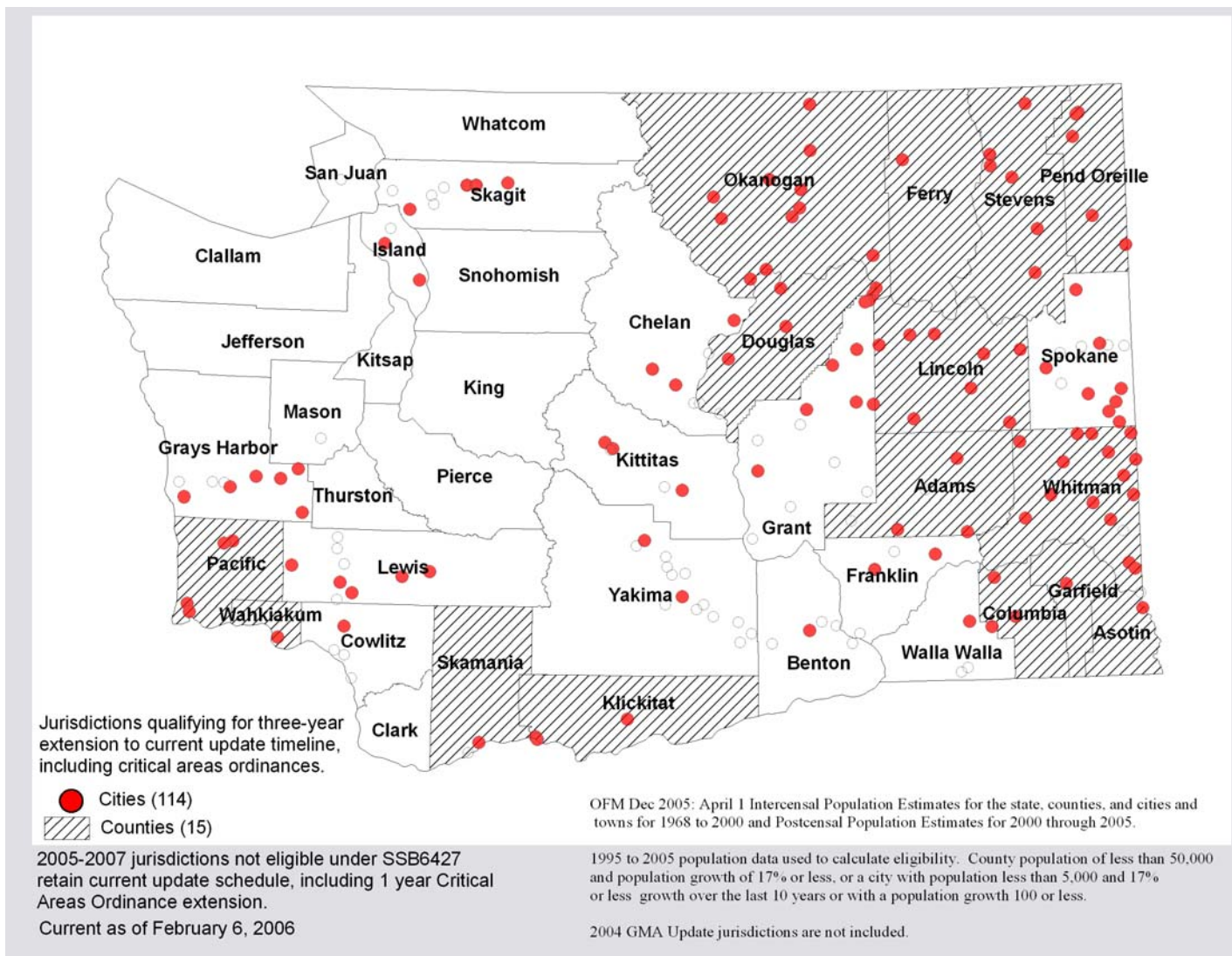
Growth Management Act – Timelines Bill – ESSB 6427

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Qualifying counties	Qualifying cities within
Adams	Ritzville; Washtucna
Asotin	Asotin
Columbia	Dayton; Starbuck
Douglas	Bridgeport; Mansfield; Waterville
Ferry	Republic
Garfield	Pomeroy
Klickitat	Bingen; Goldendale; White Salmon
Lincoln	Almira; Creston; Davenport; Harrington; Odessa; Sprague; Wilbur
Okanogan	Brewster; Coulee Dam; Elmer City; Nespelem; Okanogan; Omak; Oroville; Pateros; Tonasket; Twisp; Winthrop
Pacific	Ilwaco; Long Beach; Raymond; South Bend
Pend Oreille	Cusick; Ione; Metaline; Metaline Falls; Newport
Skamania	Stevenson
Stevens	Chewelah; Colville; Kettle Falls; Northport; Springdale
Wahkiakum	Cathlamet
Whitman	Albion; Colfax; Colton; Endicott; Garfield; La Crosse; Malden; Lamont; Oakesdale; Palouse; Rosalia; St. John; Tekoa; Uniontown,
<i>Non-qualifying counties</i>	Qualifying cities located in non-qualifying counties
<i>Benton</i>	Benton City
<i>Chelan</i>	Cashmere; Chelan; Leavenworth
<i>Cowlitz (CARL)</i>	Castle Rock (CARL)
<i>Franklin</i>	Kahlotus
<i>Grant</i>	Coulee City; Electric City; George; Grand Coulee; Hartline; Krupp, Soap Lake; Wilson Creek
<i>Grays Harbor (CARL)</i>	Cosmopolis; Elma; McCleary; Montesano; Oakville; Westport
<i>Island</i>	Coupeville; Langley
<i>Kittitas</i>	Cle Elum; Kittitas; Roslyn
<i>Lewis</i>	Mossyrock; Morton; Pe Ell; Toledo; Winlock
<i>Mason</i>	No cities qualify
<i>San Juan</i>	No cities qualify
<i>Skagit</i>	Concrete; La Conner
<i>Spokane</i>	Deer Park; Fairfield; Latah; Medical Lake; Millwood; Rockford; Sprangle; Waverly
<i>Walla Walla</i>	Prescott; Waitsburg
<i>Yakima</i>	Naches; Wapato

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Q: I still have questions, who can help me?

A: Direct questions to your growth management planner. Those are listed on the following page.

Planner	Specialty	County
David Andersen 360.725.3052 <i>davida@cted.wa.gov</i>	Review and update of plans and regulations	Snohomish
Karin Berkholtz 360.725.3065 <i>karinb@cted.wa.gov</i>	Economic Development, SEPA, SEPA/GMA integration	Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Wahkiakum, City of Seattle
Dee Caputo 360.725.3068 <i>deeca@cted.wa.gov</i>	Agriculture, rural development	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Klickitat, Lincoln, Skamania, Spokane, Whitman
Anne Fritzel 360.725.3064 <i>annef@cted.wa.gov</i>	Smart growth, review	Thurston
Tim Gates 360.725.3058 <i>ting@cted.wa.gov</i>	Water resources, shorelines	Grays Harbor, Island, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, San Juan
Ted Gage 360.725.3049 <i>tedg@cted.wa.gov</i>	Educational and training programs	Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens
Lynn Kohn 360.725.3042 <i>lynnk@cted.wa.gov</i>	Public facilities and services, permit processing, small city issues	Grant, Yakima
Ike Nwankwo 360.725.3056 <i>Iken@cted.wa.gov</i>	Housing, grants, urban development	King, Pierce
Doug Peters 360.725.3046 <i>douglasp@cted.wa.gov</i>	Critical areas and resource lands	Clallam, Jefferson, Skagit, Whatcom
Joyce Phillips 360.725.3045 <i>joycep@cted.wa.gov</i>	Transportation	Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas
Janet Rogerson 360.725.3047 <i>Janetr@cted.wa.gov</i>	Architecture and urban design, historic lands and buildings	Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, City of Tacoma